The Hampden Hippocrat

April 1981

Providence Hospital

Annual Meeting - April 28, 1981

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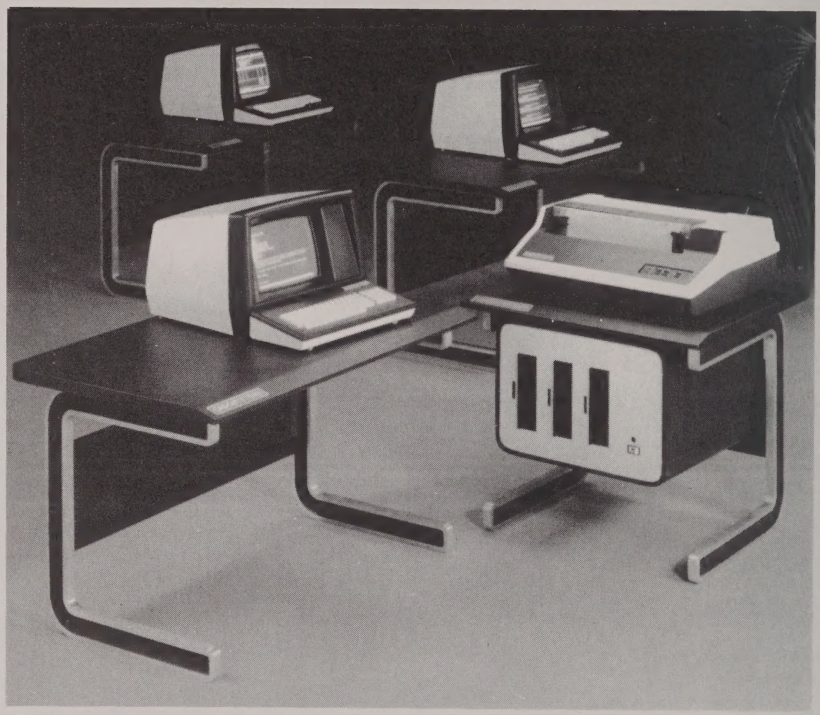

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Annual Meeting of the Hampden District Medical Society

PLACE: Storrowton Tavern
Stagecoach Barn
West Springfield, Massachusetts

DATE: Tuesday, April 28, 1981

BUSINESS MEETING: 6:00 P.M.

SOCIAL HOUR: 7:00 P.M.

DINNER. 7:30 P.M. Courtesy of HDMS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

TREASURER'S REPORT

SPEAKER: William Munier, M.D.
Executive Vice President
The Massachusetts Medical Society

NOTE: If you must cancel your dinner reservations, call the office before noon on April 28th. If the cancellation is not made you will be billed for your dinner.

Smoking in designated areas only at dinner.

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I shall attend the meeting at Storrowton Tavern.

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THE HAMPDEN HIPPOCRAT
·1942·

APRIL 1981 VOL.XXXVII NO. 4

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The official bulletin
for The Hampden District
of The Massachusetts
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THE HAMPDEN HIPPOCRAT IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT FOR JULY AND AUGUST.
THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS BULLETIN ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OFFICIAL VIEWPOINT OF THE HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY UNLESS SO STATED.
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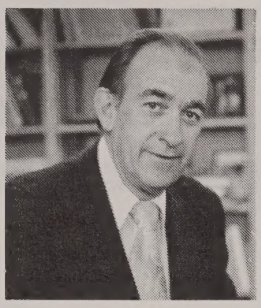

J.J. SIRAGUSA, JR., M.D.
President

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

PRO COMPETITION

Congressman Richard A. Gephardt D., Missouri has submitted to the 97th Congress the Gephardt and (Stockman) Pro Competition Bill HR850. This bill embodies the new administration's answers to the control of spiraling health care costs. It is receiving strong support from the American Medical Association. It is based on the contention that government spending and regulation in the Health Care System have had a proven negative effect on cost containment. It aims at calling forth the American System of free enterprise and market forces to hold down costs. To quote a paragraph from the Act itself it "provides Federal assistance to all Americans to join qualified plans by making available to every American A Health Care contribution in a form and amount appropriate to the democratic situation of the individual or family." In essence, it plans to accomplish this by encouraging an individual to join on his own or through his employer a "qualified plan" to which a premium is paid. If that premium is less than the "AMOUNT APPROPRIATE" as described above, the difference will essentially be reimbursed to the individual in tax free dollars. This will encourage the individual to "shop" for a plan and will in turn encourage the third party payers or plan managers to compete with each other in offering a low cost plan.

This Act makes abundantly good sense because it aims directly at the crux of the problem of spiraling Health Care costs, namely the irresponsibility and lack of cost consciousness of third party payers, government and private alike.

At first reading there is one thing about this Act that frightens me. That is the concept of the "qualified plan". To quote the Act again, it will "rationalize" and coordinate the Health Care System by encouraging the development of qualified plans which will be organized to provide a full range of service to members and which may be operated by any entity, including a hospital, (a group of) physicians, insurance company or agency of government." Experience with HMO's has taught us that any such plan requires considerable financial backing for administrative costs and financial losses that are inevitable for several years until the plan becomes established. To start a plan requires a source of money or "sugar daddy". The government can obtain such money from our taxes. Hospitals and insurance companies obtain such money

from our taxes. Hospitals and insurance companies can obtain such money from "reserves". For a group of physicians to establish such a plan requires digging down into their individual pockets for funds or finding a "sugar daddy".

Where does the individual, fee for service physician stand who wishes to go it alone in this new system? I think he may catch cold. □

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Auxiliary News

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a Health Care Study open to the public. The study will focus on the bureaucratic structure and the payment system and how they interrelate.

Contact Paula Lusardi, at 567-1233 for the 9:15 A.M. presentation on April 15, 1981 at her home at 54 Ellington Street, Longmeadow.

Contact Jane Hetzel for the evening meeting to be held at 7:30 P.M. at her home at 47 Bellevue Avenue, Springfield, Jane's telephone is 736-1368. □

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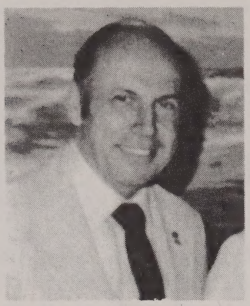
Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting will be on Tuesday, May 5, 1981 at the Hampden Country Club. The meeting will be at 11 A.M. followed by luncheon and the fashion show at 12 noon. Noreen Bettigole is Chairwoman and the Co-Chairwomen are Judy Ingis and Carolyn Letteney. □



PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL

Holyoke's Providence Hospital is a busy place these days for a lot of reasons.

One of the prime motivations for all the activity is the opening of the new Catherine Horan Medical Office Building located to and joined with the hospital. The three story, 30 suite structure opened for occupancy on March 2, 1981, after nearly a year in the construction process and more than twice that amount of time in the planning.

The building was built and is being developed by the Fontaine Bros. Construction Co. of Holyoke, and at this writing six of the suites are filled and functioning with more being added all the time.

In fact the Horan Building, which was named for the founder of the Sisters of Providence of Holyoke and of the hospital back in 1873, is just another link in the 108 year chain of service to the several communities served by the 247-bed community hospital.

The new building will help the hospital continue its long record of community service and help insure a viable medical staff in the years ahead.

But that's not all that's new at Providence.

In fact the emphasis at Providence is reaching more and more into the community each year. A number of busy programs and clinics have brought the hospital into the 1980s with an excellent record of serving our patients.

Our Diabetic Teaching Program, for diabetics and their families and other interested persons, is well into its second decade and has

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served thousands. The program is held each Friday night and includes practical help such as diet, insurance counselling and foot care as well as sound medical advice.

Our clinical oncology and enterostomal therapy areas service a number of patients on a daily and weekly basis.

Our Natural Family Planning program has been recognized both regionally and nationally. It was the first established in the area and continues to be a source of help to couples in our service area as well as a resource for programs all over the country.

Our Rheumatology Service serves those suffering from arthritis and related diseases on a weekly basis along with a monthly public discussion and lecture on various aspects of the disease that has been well attended by the public.

Our Nutritional/Metabolic Support Service, one of the first established in the country, has been recognized throughout the world. Dr. Harrison D. Willcutts, director of the program, has attended conventions and seminars in Sweden, the British Isles, Puerto Rico and Australia and the findings arrived at here have been used as the basis for establishing support services throughout the world. A number of persons from foreign and American hospitals have come to Providence to observe the Nutritional Support service and have likened their facilities and programs to ours. Dr. Willcutts has been prominent in such organizations as the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.

Our auxiliary has begun, this year, a series on community health problems and has played to standing room only gatherings for lectures on drugs in the neighborhoods and stress and is planning to continue the community service on an annual basis.

Our Pain Management Program is another that has received regional and national attention. We have found much success and many real success stories through this program which helps chronic pain sufferers to lead a normal life.

Our Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program, which has just entered its 11th year, is the only one of its kind in Western Massachusetts and last year recorded a total of 31,470 treatments. The program has also been the recipient of several grants in the drug prevention and correction area. We are most proud of the community involvement and input our MMTP program is having and we look for the programs to grow in helping those who need it most.

In addition to these programs our total admissions last year totalled nearly 7,800, with our nursery showing 1,333 births, our emergency room nearly 19,000 visits and our ancillary services showing gains all over the previous year.

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Our hospital, in addition to medical surgical and maternity, also offers a full range of pediatric services as well.

And speaking of maternity, our services in this area have expanded and continue to modernize. We have a full service birthing room open to the mothers and fathers who qualify and the demand is increasing. This combined with our regular maternity and nursery services make our birthing center an extremely busy and happy place.

We also offer a new Sibling Class to parents who already have young children and who are expecting an addition. The class is not for the parents, although they are invited, but for the youngsters. The class, which has proven to be a popular one, teaches the youngsters about their new prospective brother or sister, tells them about what mommy will be doing while she is in the hopital, shows them the nursery area and the room mommy will be staying in and informs them about our sibling visiting privileges. They are even shown where mommy's telephone will be so they may call when they like.

We also offer Pre-Natal and Post-partum services which are well attended on a twice weekly basis.

Our radiology department has undergone many changes and modernizations in recent years and we offer a full range of X-ray, nuclear medicine, ultra sound services and we also have use of a new portable gamma camera. In addition our radiology department, in conjunction with Holyoke Community College, takes part in a highly successful Radiologic Technology Program, which is a two year program, of classwork and actual experience in the hospital.

Our physical therapy department, with over 41,558 visits last year, continues to grow by leaps and bounds with more personnel being added all the time to handle the demand for services.

We also have on staff an occupational therapist who helps patients throughout the hospital and in the Pain Management Program in particular.

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We have also instituted a Central Appointment Service which make the task of scheduling so much easier for all departments, the physicians and for the patients.

Our Respiratory Therapy Department is constantly at work throughout the hospital giving treatments and advice to patients.

Our Cardiac Rehab Program is one of the finest in the area and is run in conjunction with our EKG and EEG department.

One of the busiest places in the hospital is our multi-faceted laboratory where tests are performed constantly and where we strive for accuracy and quick response.

Our social service department is a big plus for the hospital in that the department is quick to respond to the needs of our patients and their families.

We note also a daily connection with our founding order the Sister of Providence. Their constant prayer and intercession on behalf helps us to get by the day to day problems of health care. They are our examples and our joy. The work of the sisters is evident daily also through our Pastoral Care Dept. which ministers to the spiritual side of the patient, which helps us in our care for the whole patient physical and spiritual. We also have a fine chaplain connected with the department which gives us all a spiritual lift by Christian example and good works.

We also have a patient representative program which seeks out the patients and assures them when they have questions or complaints. We realize the importance of this communication in our hospital.

Our clinical engineering and maintenance departments along with the laundry and power plant are also integral parts of the health delivery team at Providence. Without their help all the machinery which is essential in today's health care would not function properly. We are also most proud of our housekeeping and dietary crews, who we feel are second to none in their necessary jobs.

All of the above is rounded out with an "A-One" nursing staff that provides the total care a patient needs.

We are most proud of our record of total joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals approval, being rewarded with the longest accreditation possible every time, our Cancer Program accreditation from the American College of Surgeons, again the longest accreditation possible, and also our ability to work with these groups to improve our health care delivery.

Our medical staff continues to work with us on a day to day basis as we seek ways to ease the stays of our patients and our staff continues to improve its own talents and educational abilities through many Continuing Education programs offered here at the hospital.

Providence Hospital has a proud, 108 year history. We look back on that constantly to realize how we got to our present position. That position is a forward looking one, with many years ahead. We are confident of our future because of what has gone before us, and especially because of what is happening now. □

OWEN CONNELLY
Administrator

Annual Report Of Executive Committee HDMS

In 1980-81 bi-monthly executive committee meetings were held with better than 80% attendance at all meetings. Mrs. Jane Condon represented Hampden District Medical Auxiliary at all meetings. Our very conscientious President, James J. Siragusa foresided at all meetings.

Proposals for the merger of the Springfield Academy of Medicine into the Hampden District Medical Society as the Education and Library Committee of the Society were prime topics of the agenda discussed at all meetings. Presentation of the proposals was made to district society on March 3rd. Necessary by-law changes relative to a merger were drawn up and discussed.

Dr. Franco Navazio and Mrs. Jane Condon accepted appointments as co-chairpersons of the Bi-Centennial Committee as representatives to Massachusetts Medical Society from Hampden District. Dr. Terrence O'Neill accepted appointment as Councillor.

All committees of the society were functioning well as evidenced by their respective reports. Admirable planning and guidance to all committees from our Executive Secretary, Vivian Purdy, was greatly appreciated. □

WILLIAM W. WALTHALL, JR., M.D.
Chairman

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Public Health Committee

The Public Health Committee has had a reasonably active year and has, in my opinion, had a substantial influence on health matters, particularly in the Greater Springfield area.

This year's committee came together at the time that recommendations of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission were being implemented. Two items of importance were addressed by the committee -- enabling legislation permitting a non-physician Commissioner of Public Health in Springfield and the Society's relationship to the newly-formed Public Health Council.

In the matter of the Commissioner, the Society adopted a strong position relating to the desirability of a physician commissioner and the input necessary by the medical community in the appointment of a commissioner.

Further, the Society has made clear the appropriateness and importance of its input to the Public Health Council. Two physician representatives are members of the Council.

On invitation from the City, the Society was invited to participate in the Community Health Education Council of Children and Adolescents. A physician was recommended by the Committee and currently is a member of the Board of Directors.

A member of the Committee was appointed to serve on the Planning Committee to develop a school health course.

Other items began to surface as Proposition 2½ became a reality. The Committee responded to concerns about the transfer of the municipal ambulance service and the impact of losing the Putnam L.P.N. program.

Other items related to discussion of regulations for physicians serving nursing homes and the Society's endorsement of Health Life Expo '81 (health fair network for Southern New England).

Of current interest are development of programs, with possible Auxiliary assistance, of citizen C.P.R., a sports injury program, and analysis of provision of school health services.

It has been my pleasure to serve the Society this year. □

PAUL L. STAGG, M.D.
Chairman

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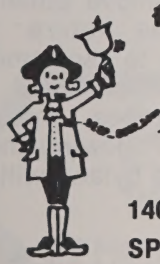

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Medico-Religious Committee

The Medico-Religious Committee met in February. Those in attendance were Bob Kasper, Dave Ballan, Joe Keenan and myself Jim Fitzpatrick. It was an interesting meeting in that we all recognized how much in practicing medicine we need to appreciate the relationship between the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of a patient's life because these components are interdependent and must be in harmony if a person is to attain health.

We are all very much aware that no where in our past medical training nor in current medical education is there any encouragement that we physicians should be concerned regarding the spiritual dimensions of our patients. To even whisper it is to invite ridicule. Plato once said, "This is the greatest error of our day in the treatment of the human body that physicians separate the soul from the body". Our day, today, is no different, is it?

There is hope, however. An ever increasing growing interest in all branches of health care is occuring regards the spiritual needs of patients. There are a number of organizations whose purpose is just that. The Association of Christian Therapist is composed of physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, lay and religious who desire to advance the knowledge and practice of healing through prayer of all the dimensions of the person. The group has over 1,000 members throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. William S. Reed, M.D. of Tampa, organized the present Christian Medical Foundation a group of physicians whose function is the same as A.C.T.

Our meeting concluded with the question, "Where do we go from here"? We feel it was important to let our fellow physicians know that we had such a unique meeting. We invite any physicians who share out thoughts and desires to come join us. □

JAMES G. FITZPATRICK, M.D.
Chairman

Bylaws Committee

Revisions concerning membership have been prepared to remove the conflict with the bylaws of the Massachusetts Medical Society and will be presented at the March meeting for action. The committee has also developed an addition to the bylaws to accomodate an affiliation with the Springfield Academy of Medicine as directed by the District. Several housekeeping changes will also be recommended either to improve the language, make them more consistent or to remove potential challenges. In the future the committee intends to recommend amendments to the areas of publications, insurance, medico-legal and bylaws. Following these changes the revised bylaws will be ready for publication. □

JAMES D. ALLAN, M.D.
Chairman

A Time To Look Forward

Hampden Hippocrat

The goals of the Hampden Hippocrat and the Hampden District Medical Society are identical. Their functions are to inform, interpret, criticize and stimulate its readers and members. Medical journals are divided into two categories, the medical recorders and the medical newspapers. The Hampden Hippocrat falls into the second category. We have included many items of interest to the physician, in clinical medicine, economics of medicine, legislation and local attractions. We are welcoming the outlet in the "Letters to the Editor" section. During the past year we have featured various interesting stories such as the Noble Hospital, Sturbridge Village, Laughing Brook and in the last issue the Science Museum of Springfield. Our aim directly and indirectly is to make the Hampden Hippocrat a better publication and the Hampden District Medical Society the best in the Commonwealth. We look forward to your support!!!

WALTER J. PACOSA, M.D.
Chairman

Area Health Planning Committee

The Area Health Planning Committee initiated the Health Cost Grand Rounds "centerfold" case presentation with price tags of all tests, hospital days, etc.

The committee also undertook to review the Health Planning Council's plans especially those concerning Primary Ambulatory Care, Medical Surgical Acute Care.

At the next meeting of the committee to be held in April further information on Health Maintenance Organizations, (HMO's) will be discussed. □

PETER G. SELLEI, M.D.
Chairman

Report Of The Legislative Committee

The Massachusetts Medical Society has filed three new bills and refiled four old bills for the consideration of the 1981 session of the Massachusetts State Legislature.. The new bills are:

1. An Act relative to Re-establishing The Period of Limitations for Medical Malpractice Actions -

   Explanatory Note: This bill would reinstate the fixed statute of limitations for medical malpractice actions as it was prior to the recent Supreme Judicial Court decision in Franklin v. Albert. In that case, the SJC ruled that malpractice suits could be filed three years from the date of discovery of the alleged injury rather than the three year period from the time the alleged incident occurred. The recent ruling which this bill would reverse, can make doctors permanently liable for alleged injuries.

2. An Act Relative to Deeming Accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals To Be Sufficient for Hospital Licensure -

   Explanatory Note: The purpose of this bill is to eliminate as far as possible duplicative inspections of hospitals by various agencies of state and federal government. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, a nationally recognized professional organization, would be given the **Deemed status** as the agency for such inspections. None of the statutory authority granted to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Division of Hospital Licensing would be altered or reduced.

   This bill was filed with the approval of the Department of Public Health and the support of the Mass. Hospital Association.

Museum Shop

ORIENTAL TREASURES, FANS, PARASOLS, POTTERY, KITES, SOAPSTONE AND ENAMEL JEWELRY ARE NEW AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, SPFLD.

3. An Act Requiring that Driver Trainees Wear Three Point Automobile Safety Seat Belts While Undergoing Driver Education Training -

   Explanatory Note: State Law requires that all automobiles must be equipped with auto safety seat belts. There is no law however, that requires that the individual drivers or passengers to use the seat belts. The MMS Committee on Prevention of Traffic Accidents has recommended that this bill be introduced to require driver education trainees to use three point auto safety seat belts while driving driver education school automobiles on Massachusetts highways. This bill would at least expose the driver trainees to the importance of auto seat belt safety factors.

The Registrar of Motor Vechicles, General Richard E. McLaughlin, met with MMS officials and indicated that the registry of Motor Vehicles would support such legislation.

(Refiled Bills from last year)

4. An Act Imposing Penalties for the Illegal Taking, Stealing, Unauthorized Reproduction, Distribution and Receipt of Medical Records -

   Explanatory Note: MMS has filed this bill before, but each time the bill has been referred to a study. The legislation would impose strict penalties on individuals who take or receive illegally obtained medical records.

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5. An Act Permitting Certain Payments of Benefits by Medical Service Corporations In Connection with Services of Non-Participating Physicians in the Commonwealth -

   Explanatory Note: Massachusetts is the only state in which the physicians are bound by a lock-in provision. This legislation seeks to break that lock-in as well as to provide payments to nonparticipating physicians directly.

6. An Act Relative to the Allowances Paid to Members of the Board of Registration in Medicine -

   Explanatory Note: According to present statute members of the Board of Registration in Medicine are paid $35 per diem and eight cents a mile allowance for private mileage. This bill would compensate board members at the rate of $100 per day and the going rate for private mileage as allowed by other state agencies.

7. An Act Requiring Physicians to Renew Their Certificates of Registration Every Three Years -

   Explanatory Note: Present law requires that all practicing physicians in the Commonwealth renew their certificates of registration every two years with a payment of fifty dollars to the Board of Registration in Medicine. This refiled bill would require physicians to renew their certificates every three years with a payment of seventy-five dollars. Massachusetts would then be in conformity with national accreditation standards for continuing medical education requirements which are based on a three year cycle in most case. The bill would also tend to eliminate some of the administrative pressures placed on the Board of Registration in Medicine every two years when an estimated 16,000 licenses become due on January 15th as mandated by state law.

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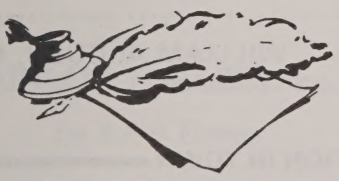
Senate 866: A bill submitted by Blue Cross & Blue Shield proposing merging these two health service corporations. One of the key sections would allow Blue Shield to reimburse the subscriber for payments made by him to a non-participating physician. This is a partial break of the ''lock-in''. Assignment of the payment directly from Blue Shield to non-participating doctors is not permitted. The Mass. Medical Society is attempting to get BC-BS to alter this provision. There are many other sections, not quite as important to physicians, but nevertheless very important and these the Mass. Medical Society is also attempting to change.

The following is a list of your State Legislators. Let them know how you feel about these bills especially the bill to **reinstate** the fixed statute of limitations and Senate 866 (the BC-BS merger bill) to break the ''lock-in''.

NAMES	TELEPHONE (area code 617)
Sen. John P. Burke	727-0115
Sen. Martin T. Reilly	727-8134
Sen. Alan D. Sisitsky	727-8850
Rep. Rudy Chmura	727-2560
Rep. Edward Connelly	727-2375
Rep. Walter A. DeFillippi	727-2560
Rep. Iris Holland	727-2375
Rep. Robert Howarth	727-5871
Rep. Raymond Jordan	727-2380
Rep. Kenneth Lemanski	727-7676
Rep. Arthur McKenna	727-2380
Rep. William Mullins	727-2584
Rep. Steven Pierce	727-2396
Rep. Robert Rohan	727-2380
Rep. Anthony Scibelli	727-2380
Rep. William Moriarity	727-5871

SAMUEL J. BRENDLER, M.D.
Chairman



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The Dr. Max and Ida L. Millman Foundation gave ten loans in 1980 to medical students who were worthy, ambitious students without regard to sex, race, creed, or national origin and domiciled in Hampden County.

Four loans went to students at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, two to Boston University School of Medicine, one to Dartmouth Medical School, one to Georgetown University School of Medicine, one to Yale University School of Medicine and one to the University of Chicago School of Medicine.

These loans are available each year and may be applied for through the offices of the Hampden District Medical Society by speaking with Mrs. Vivian Purdy. □

WILLIAM B. COEN, M.D.
Chairman

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee met and reviewed applications for financial aid to medical students.

Seven students received gifts from funds that are at Massachusetts Medical Society which is interest on money from a project that dates back quite a few years.

Seven students received financial aid from the Hampden District Medical Society which is five dollars from each dues paying member of HDMS.

Applications are available at the medical society office. If you know about a worthy student please tell them to call the office for application blanks. □

WILLIAM A. COEN, M.D.
Chairman

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Mediation Committee

The Mediation Committee has held regular committee meetings during the past year with interested and faithful members in attendance.

Thirty nine cases have been heard and hopefully settled.

As Chairman, I thank the members for all their help in adjudicating these problems. □

NORMAN EPSTEIN, M.D.
Chairman

In Memoriam

HARRY HARHAY, M.D.

Dr. Harry Harhay died February 28, 1981 in the Providence Hospital. He was a General Practitioner in the Chicopee area for 40 years.

He graduated from the University of Alabama and obtained his medical degree from the College of Physicians & Surgeons in Boston.

Dr. Harhay was a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in 1951. He was a school physician in the Chicopee school system for many years.

Dr. Harhay was a member of the American Medical Association, the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Hampden District Medical Society.

He is survived by his wife, Gertrude and a son and two daughters.

Deepest sympathy is extended to his family and many friends from the Hampden District Medical Society. □

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Ad Hoc Committee On Nutrition

The Ad Hoc Committee on Nutrition has completed its fourth year. My appreciation to its members for their availability and their expertise as questions come up from various sources. As HSA funding becomes more restricted, its Subcommittee on Nutrition role may be quite limited or unfunded entirely, in which case this Committee might expect an increased community role.

It has been my privilege to continue to represent Hampden District at the Massachusetts Medical Society Committee on Nutrition meetings at the M.I.T. Faculty Club every alternate month, now under the Chairmanship of Charles D. Davidson, M.D. from the Clinical Research Center at 50 Ames Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts. His prestigious leadership and distinguished background, obviously will see a more visible role for the Nutrition Committee. The Committee's initial report "Physician Responsibility Advising on Nutritional Matters" with an addition by Dr. George Cahill, has been approved by the Massachusetts Medical Society Executive Commitee and was referred to the **New England Journal of Medicine** for consideration for publication. This report, hopefully, clarifies the confusion caused by the Surgeon General's report "Healthy People" from HEW, December, 1979, and the report of the National Academy of Sciences, 1980 "Toward Healthful Diets" which has received such media attention.

Bruce Bistrian, M.D., Ph.D. of the New England Deaconess Hospital and myself have been assigned the Subcommittee Role of preparing requested guidelines for Blue Shield payment for hyperalimentation. Hopefully, these will be available very shortly, although the work was first requested from Blue Shield over a year ago.

The Committee looks forward to the coming year and would be pleased to hear from any Hampden District Medical Society member with an interest in nutrition who would care to serve on the Committee. □

HARRISON D. WILLCUTTS, M.D.
Chairman

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Annual Report Of Malpractice And Medical/Legal Affair Committee

The Committee held its first organizational meeting on Wednesday, August 6, 1980. There are no problems in the area of medical/legal affairs which were discussed, including relationships with our legal colleagues and problems with adequate malpractice coverage through the JUA. This meeting resulted in a plan to hold a combined meeting with the parallel committee from the bar association.

On January 21, 1981, another meeting was held, attended by members of the Malpractice and Medical/Legal Affairs Committee as well as members of a similar committee with the bar association. Matters were discussed, frankly, to help build and improve rapport between the medical society and the bar association.

The subjects discussed were timeliness and quality of medical reports requested by lawyers as well as fair compensation for these reports. Feelings of the physicians in regards to these requests were discussed and recommendations were made for resolution of differences and better cooperation between the two associations. Plans, in the future, include inviting members of the bar association as speakers to our meetings; inviting them to write articles for our Hampden Hippocrat; and future matters of concern would include looking into the binding arbitration program for malpractice cases and investigating the adequacy of malpractice coverage existing under the JUA. □

JOHN R. PARK, M.D.
Chairman

PUBLIC RELATION COMMITTEE

During the past year the Public Relation Committee has had a satisfactory and pleasant relationship with all the media in the area. Cooperation has been excellent on their part as well as on ours. Public Relation seminars, conducted by the Massachusetts Medical Society, Public Relations committee have been attended in Boston by the Chairman of the Public Relation Committee, Mrs. Vivian Purdy, Executive Director and representatives for the Hampden District Medical Society Women's Auxiliary. □

BERNARD BLOOM, M.D.
Chairman

DISTRICT MEETING

The March 3, 1981 District Meeting was called to order by Dr. Siragusa, President of the HDMS at 6:20 P.M. There were 70 members present for the business meeting.

Dr. Walthall, Secretary indicated that the minutes of the January 13, 1981 meeting were printed in the February issue of the Hampden Hippocrat. The members approved these as written. Dr. Walthall read the highlights of the Executive Committee of February 17, 1981 as they pertained to the affiliation of the HDMS and the Springfield Academy of Medicine. These were approved by the members present.

Dr. Siragusa asked Dr. James Allan, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee to give his report. Dr. Allan went over the different sections of the Bylaws that are subject to change and each part was approved by the members present as these changes had been mailed to each member in advance.

The bylaw change that pertains to the affiliation of the HDMS and the Academy follows:

"COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE LIBRARY"

The committee on Education and the Library shall consist of ten members appointed for five year terms. Terms of office shall be staggered as to provide for the election of two members each year. The chairman shall be elected by the committee. It shall be the voting member of the Springfield Academy of Medicine and act as its board of directors. It shall concern itself with continuing medical education as well as the maintainence and preservation of a medical library known as the Academy library. It may, with the advice of the Executive Committee employ a librarian. In the event that the Springfield Academy of Medicine shall have any income, it shall be used to support the library.

Dr. Fitzpatrick and Dr. Carey were present to answer questions. The financial status of the Academy was discussed by Dr. Carey. The questions of assessment to members was posed. For each physician for 1981 the assessment is proposed as $30.00. Most hospitals in the district plan to support the Academy at $5.00 per hospital bed. It was voted affirmatively to approve the affiliation of HDMS and the Academy.

Dr. Lorne Smith, Chairman of the Nominating Committee asked that if any member is interested in becoming a Councilor that he contact Mrs. Purdy. There are two openings.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7 P.M.

The social hour followed from 7 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. Dinner was served promptly at 7:30 P.M.

Dr. Siragusa announced the plans for the Bicentennial of the MMS. There will be a Pops Concert on May 19th and on the 20th of May will be the Council meeting, the Annual meeting and dinner at night.

Dr. Siragusa introduced the legislators present at the meeting as guests. Dr. Grant Rodkey, former President of the MMS was present and spoke briefly. He praised Hampden for entertaining the legislators.

Dr. Siragusa introduced Dr. Daniel T. Cloud, President Elect of the AMA who was the guest speaker. The topic of his talk was "The AMA Today". Dr. Cloud complimented the HDMS on the attendance and the legislators present.

Dr. Cloud gave an overview of national medical programs such as HMO's, HSA's and PSRO's. He believes the election of November 1980 has changed attitudes in the country and that a real "high" has swept the country.

He feels that the physicians must react to proposals so that quality of medical care is not reduced.

Dr. Cloud discussed the AMA organization with the introduction of a five year plan and has hopes that membership will be increased so that a dues increase will not be necessary in 1982. He stated that we are in a political world and physicians must get involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M. □

S.T.A.R.T.
Physical Therapy

The Physical Therapist is an important member of the medical team. For those who suffer from painful muscles and bone problems, freedom from pain is an elusive light at the end of the tunnel. Drugs may provide relief from symptoms, but they usually do not attack the cause and may become addictive. Surgery, while appropriate in some cases, is too often a last resort that fails. What is a person to do?

Fortunately, many people have found relief from debilitating pain through safe, natural, Physical Therapy.

Working through a Physician's referral, the Physical Therapist can very often spare patients the trauma of surgery or the blank euphoria of drug dependence. For the post-operative patient, the Physical Therapist is the link in the health care team that speeds successful recovery. For the sports enthusiast, a Physical Therapist can decrease recovery time from injuries and rehabilitate the athletes for their respective activity.

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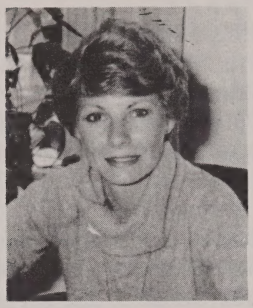

EILEEN HOULE
Executive Director

Business Fund For The Arts

"The average American businessman" Henry James wrote, regards "culture" as the concern of "women, foreigners, and other impractical persons".

James found this fact disconcerting, as he was acutely aware that throughout the ages, the loyal and most consistent patron of the arts was "the businessman".

At the time of the Italian Renaissance (wherever commerce played a prominent social or economic role,) numerous sources of arts patronage was discovered throughout the business or professional sector.

In the quest for new markets and goods, highly educated and articulate professional men recognized the commercial and economic value of art in their business, and helped create demand for paintings, tapestries, objects d'art and furniture through the culture of the countries with which they traded.

In America, as Henry James lamented, except for a few wealthy businessmen (Frick, Guggenheim, Rockefeller, Getty etc.,) the 20th Century will reveal business patronage of the arts played no significant role.

It seems paradoxical that during any financial or economic crisis the arts are considered expendable, yet without the talents of artists and craftsmen, the business world would lack the creative ideas necessary to market products.

It's apropos therefore, that at a time when art is enjoyed by more people than ever before, the Greater Springfield business community is assuming a large share of financial responsibility for our areas cultural life.

The catalyst for this "Renaissance" is Business Fund for the Arts. B.F.A. is a central contributory agency for the business community which supports Stage West Theater, The Springfield Symphony, The Library & Museums Association, and Channel 57 - PBS.B.F.A. solicits contributions from the professional sector in support of these organizations, and the agencies in turn benefit our economy in a direct manner.

"Art in any form --- plays, exhibits, concerts, dance etc --- acts as a tremendous catalyst in generating economic activity in our area. An economic study has revealed that for every dollar spent on cultural entertainment an additional $2.1 is spent on parking, dining, hotels, books, records, sales tax etc.", says Eileen Houle, B.F.A.'s Executive Director. "The arts are not just an enjoyable

leisurely activity, but a viable and dynamic money-making industry in our midst''.

Fortunately for the Pioneer Valley area the business and professional community has already taken vast strides in supporting this growth industry. During the 1980/81 Fund-drive, B.F.A. raised $330,000 in support of the four beneficiary agencies. Eileen Houle would like to see that raised to $450,000 for their 1981/82 campaign, and intends to introduce a broader base of support to meet that goal.

Interestingly enough all that remains of the great civilizations of the past is their art. In the words of John F. Kennedy ''after the dust of centuries have passed over our cities, America will be remembered not for her victories in Battle or Politics, but for her contributions to the human spirit''. □

CODING

''There is just one more question, Mrs. Jones, Would you like a code''? ''Is that like a zip code, doctor''? ''No this is something different''. If your heart stops and we try to start it up again, it's a code. I thought if my heart stops, I was dead. ''Well, that's the way it used to be but now, we can try to get it started again''. Is that with some shot or pill? ''No, we have to put a tube in your windpipe and press up and down on your chest.'' ''Doesn't that hurt, Doctor''? Not really, at least not in the beginning because when your heart is stopped, you don't have any pain. Of course sometimes they press a little hard and can crack some ribs. That might hurt you later on if they get your heart started.

''Why are you asking this, doctor, didn't I show you my living will''? Yes, but that doesn't count anymore. Why is that? ''Well, some people feel that you might change your mind between the time you sign the will and your heart stops''. ''Can't I leave it up to you''? Well we need an expression of your opinion. This will substantiate what I put on the chart. Well, if I tell you I don't want a code I have to tell you every forty-eight hours? That's what the procedure is at present.

''Doctor, may I ask you a couple of more questions''? ''Surely''. ''What percentage of patients of my age whose heart stops beating in their hospital room, do you save''? ''About three or four percent, I guess''. ''What percent of patients do you frighten to death asking the questions you've just asked me''? Gee, I'll have to think about that one. □

JOHN J. FLAHIVE, M.D.
Associate Editor

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Letter To The Editor

February 18, 1981

Dr. James J. Siragusa, President
Hampden District Medical Society
1414 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts 01109

I am very pleased that the Hampden District Medical Society continues to express a strong interest in taking an active role in health matters in Hampden County, particularly the City of Springfield, and, in fact, has for many years had a Public Health Committee of its membership to that end. Recognizing the valuable expertise and the willingness to serve of the medical community, I have turned to the Medical Society during my administration for general consultation and for involvement in specific health-related projects.

In particular, I invited the participation of the Medical Society in:

(1) The Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Health Services that I formed in 1978;
(2) The Public health Council, the advisory board to the Springfield Health Department.
(3) The newly-formed Community Health Education Council for Children and Adolescents (CHECCA); and
(4) A special school health course committee to further develop the City's health education curriculum.

In all these areas, physicians involved have made and continue to make very valuable and meaningful contributions.

The City and the medical community have similar interests regarding the ongoing health concerns of Springfield citizens. I would thus like to suggest that we utilize the Public health Council of the Health Department along with the Public Health Committee of the Medical Society as vehicles to facilitate the best possible communication between the Medical Society and the City on matters of mutual concern.

Again, I thank you for the interest you have taken in working with the City to protect and enhance the health of all Springfield residents, and I look forward to our continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

THEODORE E. DIMAURO
Mayor

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